



# PADRE PRIDE

## MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL

TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



### HIGHLIGHTED INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Student Awards
- Staff Awards
- Performances
- Art & Ceramics
- Athletics
- Military Science



A newsletter to share some of the amazing things our students and staff are doing at MDN.



[www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza](http://www.tempeunion.org/marcosdeniza)

### Prom 2022

We had a great time celebrating Prom on May 7th at the Phoenix Art Museum. We had a great turnout and students had a fun time celebrating Marcos de Niza and our traditions.

Thank you to our Activities Department, along with Student Council for all of the planning and work that went into throwing an incredible Prom. Please see a few pictures of our awesome students and staff below:



# AROUND CAMPUS

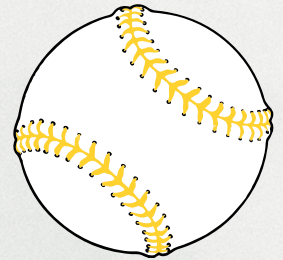
## Baseball Field Dedication Ceremony

We started the week of April 25th with an incredible field dedication ceremony in honor of Mr. Steve Adolph, who was a Marcos graduate, former principal and former Tempe Union Superintendent. We welcomed the Adolph family and friends, former Padre staff members and alumni to celebrate a ceremony and first pitch in our newly dedicated Steve R. Adolph Field.

**MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL**  
6000 South Lakeshore Drive, Tempe AZ 85283  
*\*\*Please park in the student lot off Lakeshore Drive\*\**

# Baseball Field Dedication!

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022  
RECEPTION: 3:00 PM IN MAIN GYM  
FIRST PITCH: 4:00 PM  
STEVE ADOLPH BASEBALL FIELD



# MDN

**Steve R. Adolph Field Dedication**  
*Monday, April 25, 2022 – Marcos de Niza High School*

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**PROGRAM**

**RECEPTION FOR GUESTS OF HONOR**

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
DR. KEVIN J. MENDIVIL, SUPERINTENDENT – TUHSD  
SARAH TOLAR, PRINCIPAL – MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL

**RIBBON CUTTING AND 1<sup>ST</sup> PITCH**  
ADOLPH FAMILY

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS**  
JROTC COLOR GUARD – MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**  
SYDNEY STORMENT, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT- MARCOS DE NIZA HIGH SCHOOL

**BASEBALL GAME**  
MARCOS DE NIZA VS. MESQUITE

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*City baseball game will begin at 4:15 PM.*

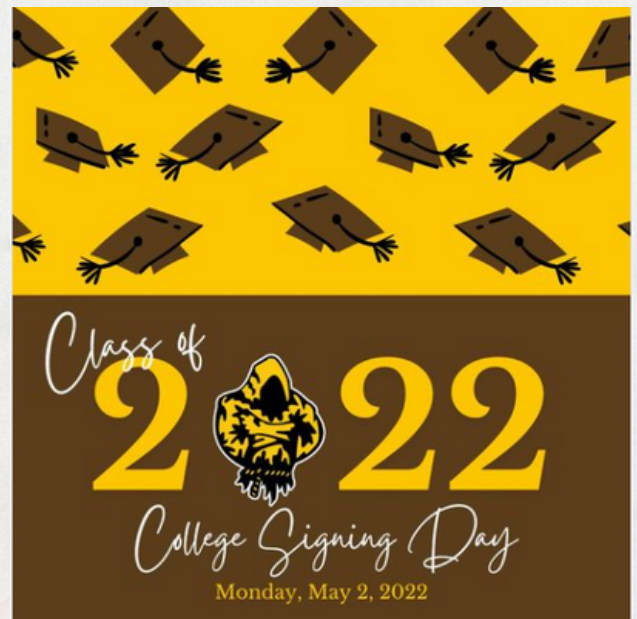


# AROUND CAMPUS

## College Signing Day

College Signing day was on May 2nd. Whether students plan to attend community college, a 4-year university, a certification program, the military, or any other education past high school, we wanted to celebrate you!

A bulletin board was created for our seniors who completed College Signing Day certificates on May 2nd. They are proudly displayed in the 100 building down the hall from the library. There are many more seniors that have made the decision to pursue their education beyond high school. These are just some of the certificates students completed at our signing day event.



We also celebrated our senior athlete, **Anthony (Tony) Mottola** who signed his letter of intent for a collegiate sport on Thursday, May 12, 2022. The Padre family is excited to support him at the next level. Our amazing **Coach Stark** is pictured on the left, along with the basketball team in support of Tony.





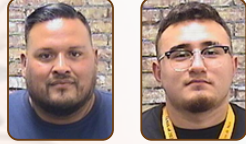
# STAFF NEWS

## Tempe Diablos Excellence in Education Award Nominees and Finalists

Congratulations to this year's nominees and our award winning staff members. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff for all that you do.

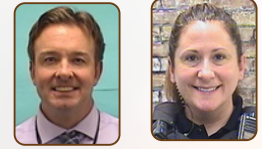
### Class Act:

Agustin Laguna—Maintenance  
Caleb Bueno—Coach



### Inspiration:

Matt Harris—World History  
Amy Pfeifer, Officer & SRO



### High Impact:

DJ Moran—Science  
Elizabeth Matuszewski—Math



### Leadership:

Korine Gomez—Science  
Kelly Muchmore—Spanish



### Lifetime Achievement:

Lisa Szpakowski—Science



### Rising Star:

Kathryn Brunstein—Math  
Erin Lillo—English



### Teacher of the Year:

Reagan Guzman—Fine Arts



Congratulations to **Reagan Guzman**, who was a finalist for the Teacher of the Year!

Principal, **Sarah Tolar** received the Tempe Diablos Leadership Award. Congratulations on a well-deserved accolade!

**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS**



**Tuesday, May 3, 2022**  
**Tempe Center for the Arts**



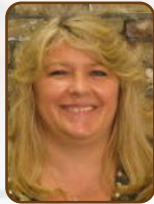
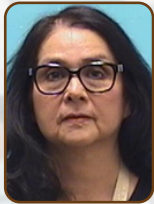


# STAFF NEWS

## *Congratulations!*

### *Retirement Spotlight*

Congratulations to our staff who are retiring this school year. You will be greatly missed. Thank you for your service and dedication to education at MdN. We wish you a happy retirement.



- Janis Halleman, Paraprofessional – 6 years
- Cynthia Jo Hicks, Cafeteria – 12 years
- Michael Olson, Admin. Asst., Principal – 21 years
- Peter McBroom, SFC (R), Military Science – 18 years
- Rosanna Ruiz, Paraprofessional – 25 years
- Lisa Szpakowski, Science – 26 years

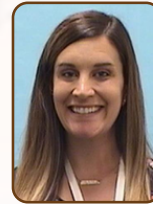
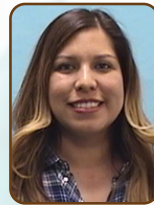
## *Welcome!*

Welcome back to MdN, **Brent Brown**. Mr. Brown has been with TUHSD for 27 years, including 16 years at MdN. We know he will guide our campus to the next level of excellence. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Brown and his family back into our Padre community.

## *Farewell Staff!*

### *5 Years of Service or More*

Thank you all for your dedication to Marcos, our students, our fellow staff members, and our community. We wish you the best and we will miss you.



- Melanie Camacho, Educational Services – 8 years
- Ginelle Coyle, Paraprofessional – 6 years
- Laytona Crudup, English Aide – 5 years
- Connor Exline, Social Studies – 5 years
- Michelle Lukin, CTE Culinary – 6 years
- Patrick McChesney, Theatre – 23 years
- Taylor Miller, Science – 7 years

## *Farewell!*

Thank you Principal, **Sarah Tolar** for your 14 years of service and dedication to education at MdN and the Tempe Union High School District. We wish you the best. You will be greatly missed.



*Once a Padres, Always a Padre!*

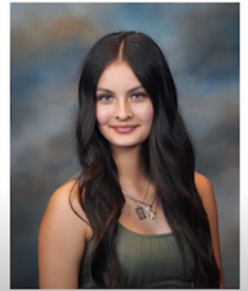
# STUDENT NEWS

## 2022 Changemakers Award Recipients

Athziri Escalante, Aviva Sanchez, Nate Sanchez, Princess Weeden and Sydney Storment are the 2022 Changemakers Award Recipients. The City of Tempe's annual YouthFest Changemakers Award celebrates students who are committed to a cause, dedicating themselves to make the world a better place. Whether it's on their school campus or in our community, when they see a problem, they take meaningful action to create positive change.

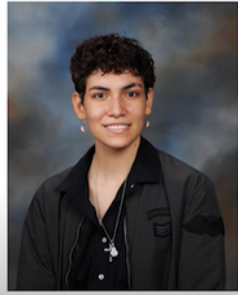
### Athziri Escalante

- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade at Marcos de Niza
- Words that describe Athziri: Driven, focused, kind, disciplined, positive



### Aviva Sanchez

- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade at Marcos de Niza
- Words that describe Aviva: Artistic, Leader, Bold, Mature, Wise



### Nate Sanchez

- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade at Marcos de Niza
- Words that describe Nate: Dedicated, kind, responsible, leader, calm



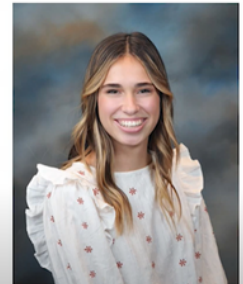
### Princess Weeden

- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade at Marcos de Niza
- Words that describe Princess: Kind, Positive, hard-working, helpful, focused



### Sydney Storment

- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade at Marcos de Niza
- Words that describe Sydney: Positive, tenacious, artistic, musical, altruistic



## 2022 Courage Award Recipients

Ceanna Loya, Tamasha Laster, Tyler Carder and Kim Nunez Figueroa are the 2022 Courage Award Recipients. The City of Tempe honors your strength and perseverance to continue your education. The City of Tempe's annual YouthFest Courage Award celebrates students who have courageously overcome incredible adversity. They choose to make their education a priority while facing life challenging events.

For more about these outstanding students, please visit: <https://www.tempe.gov/government/human-services/family-community-support/family-community-support-resources/youthfest-courage-awards-changemakers>

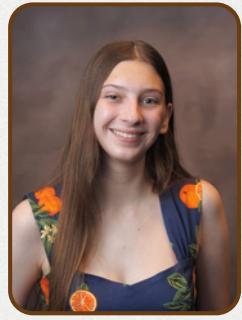




## Students of the Year

### Eleanor Bengochea—English

The French philosopher Simone Weil once wrote: "Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity." Those two words, attention and generosity, offer an accurate description of Eleanor. As a writer, student, and human being, Eleanor is both attentive and generous. She invests time and energy in her writing, never afraid to take risks as she pushes her ideas in new directions. She brings an open-minded curiosity to her learning. She shows kindness to those around her, giving encouragement and support to those in need, humans and critters alike. Our Marcos de Niza community has been lucky to enjoy Eleanor's generosity during her time with us. And beyond these walls, Eleanor's attentive compassion will be a boon to all who have the privilege to know her.



### Ashton Clendon—Military Science (JROTC)

Ashton has been in the JROTC program since he was freshman. His confidence and leadership skills have grown over that time. He is always motivated and ready to take on challenges and tasks, and always has a good attitude. He has done an exemplary job setting the example for his peers and subordinates in the program.

### Mia Franco—Math

Mia has demonstrated outstanding academics, a passion for Mathematics, excellent critical thinking skills, leadership abilities and character. Mia is not your average honor's student who would be happy with an A. Mia worked with the goal of getting a 100% in AP Calculus BC and performed at the top of her class the entire school year. This amazing feat exemplifies her academic potential. The drive and precision that Mia has dedicated to the rigorous and demanding AP and Honors curriculum is very impressive. Mia exhibited tremendous confidence with the subject matter, as she constantly guided the class through lessons and classroom discussions. Other students of the class knew they could go to Mia for a detailed explanation of a problem. Furthermore, Mia was able to learn the concepts independently, yet would ask for help when she had questions. Mia is also a creative thinker, which gives her an extra edge in problem solving, as she was the first student to correctly solve challenging Free Response questions. Mia's gifted ability and passion for Mathematics has been evident throughout her high school journey.



### Isabella Horton—World Language

Isabella has shown herself to be an excellent Spanish student throughout her career at Marcos de Niza. She is continuing her studies of the Spanish language which she started in kindergarten through the Dual Language Program in the Kyrene district. Isabella always participates in class and really goes above and beyond when it comes to investigating and sharing information with the class. She is highly motivated and sets a great example for her fellow classmates. Isabella is on course to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy, and we are confident that she will do an excellent job on the AP Spanish test. It has truly been a pleasure to have such a driven, motivated, intelligent, knowledgeable student in the World Language program at Marcos.

### Allison Luke—Educational Services

Allison has blossomed over her high school career. She is a focused and diligent student. She comes to class each day ready to learn and engage. She asks questions and is always willing to help a peer. She engages in conversations with others and she has become very outgoing. She goes out of her way to say hello to everyone in class daily and will always offer advice or help on assignments. Allison is a model student within the Transition from School to Work program. She completes all activities on time and effectively. She began a first-ever part time job last Fall at a local preschool/afterschool business and has excelled and is highly appreciated by both the staff and the children. She works every day after school for 3 hours. In the 2 years she's been in the TSW program, Allison has shown tremendous progress.



### Aviel Martinez-Mason—Fine & Performing Arts

Aviel has been highly involved in all four music performance areas during his tenure at Marcos de Niza, including the A Cappella Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Varsity Band, the Padre Pride Marching Band, and Mariachi Virtuoso. He is highly proficient on multiple instruments (including voice, string bass, electric bass, and bassoon to name a few!) and has qualified for the Regional and All-State Choir, Band, and Orchestra for multiple years in a row -- an extremely difficult and admirable feat! Avi has also been involved in the extracurricular theatre productions and will make his MDN Theatre debut in the 2022 Night of Shorts this spring. In addition, he has been a member of Phoenix Children's Chorus for 10 years and is currently in the two most advanced ensembles within the organization. He is compassionate, well-rounded, loving, dedicated, tenacious, and a strong advocate for the performing arts. Avi plans to study Instrumental Music Performance at Arizona State University this fall.

## Congratulations Students!



## Students of the Year

### Erika Ornelas Luna—Science

Erika has displayed unwavering dedication to her studies while volunteering and helping with the school musicals and plays. She has a passion for theater but gave up the course on campus so she could take more science classes. She is a member of the National Honor Society and helps plan lessons for the pre-school on our campus. Her willingness to learn and her enthusiasm for science carries over to the rest of the class. Her positive attitude and the quality of her work is exceptional. She has continued to study science her senior year even though she has satisfied her science credits toward graduation. She is also in the ACE program and will have her Associates degree upon graduation. She will be the first person in her family to go to college. Erika would like to obtain her nursing degree.



### Arianna Reyes—Social Studies

Arianna has been an exemplary student in all academic fields, but especially within Social Studies. Arianna has challenged herself by taking multiple Advanced Placement Social Studies classes, all of which she has found success in. Not only has she gone above and beyond to earn high grades in these classes, but Arianna has exhibited a strong sense of inquiry and a depth of understanding in the course content. Arianna's natural curiosity and analytic skills, along with her wonderful personality and kind nature, made her a dream to have in class.



### Sydney Storment—Fine & Visual Arts

Sydney is a leader in our Advanced Placement Studio Art class and in the Fine Arts Academy. She always has a positive attitude, offers constructive feedback during class critiques, and creates bright, beautiful paintings that have decorated the walls of our school for the last 4 years. She is personable and involved in a variety of fine arts classes on campus where she is highly respected by staff and peers. Sydney has an impressive medley of honors. She won \$500 and second place in the Valley Metro Bus Wrap contest her Sophomore year. She won \$750 and first place her Junior year with her design featured on the light rail and bus for an entire year. Also, her artwork received "Special Recognition" in the 2022 Sister Cities Art Contest. In 2020, Sydney's work was displayed at the entrance of Tempe Center for the Arts in honor of the Tempe Unity Art Walk. Finally, Sydney has brought to life two enormous walls on campus with her vibrant abstract style, diverse portraits, dripping neon color, and positive imagery. She truly deserves the Visual Art Student of the Year.



### Tyler Tracy—Physical Education

Tyler has displayed amazing qualities inside the weight room. He shows intense concentration and focus to try to learn and improve his performance. Tyler has grown so much physically as well as a leader. What really sets him apart is that he pushes his partners to push themselves and also coaches them into performing the movements as technically as possible. Tyler has always displayed a willingness to grow and participate every day that he is in class.



### Priscilla Valencia Martinez—TAPP

Priscilla is the TAPP student of the year. Priscilla came back to school after a two year break and having a son. Priscilla is a teen parent, who is an amazing caregiver all while working a part time job and going to school. While initially she thought the path of being a young parent would derail her education, she instead has turned this into her inspiration to graduate high school. She does this for both her and her son, Jesse. Priscilla often spends her lunch finding a teacher to get extra support, due to her responsibilities outside of school. She has taken her return to education and goal of graduation very seriously, and has also served as a role model for other students in TAPP. We in TAPP are all so proud of Priscilla.



### Princess Weeden—Career and Technology Education (CTE)

Princess has been an integral part of the Early Childhood program for the past 4 years. She started as a freshman and was eager to learn. Her sophomore year she worked with the preschoolers and created fun and exciting lesson plans and then taught them to 20 preschool children. Unfortunately, COVID made her junior year be online with no interaction in the preschool. But she stuck with it and her senior year she is back in our preschool. Princess is a true leader in my class. She is always willing to help her peers understand concepts, assist when they need help and simply go the extra mile. We can not think of a more deserving student to represent Marcos and our CTE department.



## Congratulations Students!



# STUDENT NEWS

## Ceramics - Raku Pottery

Mr. Evoy's Ceramics class focused on ancient methods in Ceramics including "Raku" Firing. American Raku pottery is a variation on a traditional Japanese process. It involves removing hot pots from the kiln, introducing them to combustible materials, and rapidly cooling them. And yes, it is as awesome as it sounds.

Here are a few results from our students: **Natayvia Rumbaugh**, **Chris Villamar Marcial**, and **Joseph Garcia** in April.



## Congressional Arts Competition

Tempe Union had a record number of students who submitted artwork to Congressman Greg Stanton's Congressional Arts Competition this year.

**Maya Coronado-Henson** from Marcos de Niza High School placed Second overall with her work titled "Sunset Drive" (pictured). Congratulations Maya!



# STUDENT NEWS

## State DECA Winners

Our Marcos DECA team is back with seven students placing at the state DECA competition this past February and five earning top honors. The team went on to compete at the International DECA competition in Atlanta, Georgia on April 22-27.

**Daniel Hambleton** earned a top ten test medal in Automotive Services Test and **Katherine Smas** earned a top ten finalist medal in Principles of Marketing.

The following students placed in the top four overall and went on to compete at the international DECA competition in Atlanta, GA in April: 4th place - **Desiree Lopez** in Professional Selling, 2nd place - **Jaelyn Montes** for Professional Selling Hospitality, 2nd place team of **Kayla Gould** and **Joey Candelaria** in Buying and Merchandising and 1st place - **Mariah Estrella** in Apparel and Accessories Marketing.

Thank you for all your help and support throughout the year. At our International DECA competition in Atlanta GA, 8,000 of the best and brightest students from around the world competed for scholarships, cash prizes and the chance to be named the best DECA students in the world.



# STUDENT NEWS

## DECA Competition in Apparel Marketing FIDM Scholarship

Congratulations to Mariah Estrella who placed 1st at the state DECA competition in Apparel Marketing winning a \$3,000 annual scholarship to FIDM, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. Mrs. Kimberly Erev, a representative from FIDM, presented Mariah with her scholarship award in class on April 4th. Way to go Mariah!



## Padre Students Design DECA Mall

The purpose of the "DECA Mall" project was to exercise principles of marketing. Students were asked to research companies of their choice and design cardboard boxes to look like storefronts that they believe would appeal to their company's target market. A "Deca Mall" was set up at the end of January, complete with 25 storefronts all designed by MdN students. They researched their company and designed their boxes to appeal to the target market they were trying to reach. Thanks to everyone who brought in shoe boxes, cereal boxes and other supplies. We have an awesome supportive staff here at Marcos.





# STUDENT NEWS

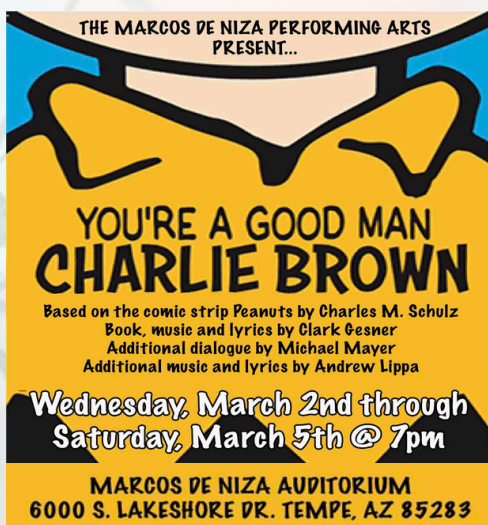
## MDN Theatre's Spring Play

### You're a Good Man Charlie Brown



The Theater Program was Honored by Arizona Department of Arts Education. Congratulations to our amazing Theater program for being recognized for their stellar performance of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. The Arizona Department of Arts Education awarded them with a certificate of recognition, after attending the show in person. They honored the program for their ongoing commitment to Arts education nurturing talent and by providing students with an outlet for much-needed emotional expression. We are so proud, Padres!

Thank you to the Marcos Fine Arts Academy (MFAA) for all their outreach efforts this year. They have done a phenomenal job of connecting students and families to our school. A special thank you to Mr. Patrick McChesney for taking the lead and initiating these relationships on behalf of the MFAA.



# STUDENT NEWS

## MDN Dance

### Music That Moves US

Our Marcos de Niza Spring Dance concert *Music That Moves Us* was performed in the Auditorium on April 28th and 29th. The Beginning and Advanced Dance performed a number of pieces by students and guest choreographers. Many pieces included special live music components and showcased some of Marcos' very own students and alumni.



# STUDENT NEWS

## Arizona All-State Music Festival

Avi Martinez-Mason participated in the Arizona All-State Music Festival in Flagstaff on April 7th. This is a tremendous achievement and one of the highest honors in the state for music students. The performing arts faculty are so proud of Avi's musical accomplishments

Avi has been a dedicated member of our orchestra, band, and choir programs throughout his tenure at MdN. Additionally, he is a veteran member of the Phoenix Children's Chorus, currently singing in the organization's top ensemble. Next year, Avi will be majoring in music at Arizona State University.



## Mariachi Ensemble Performance

The Mariachi Ensemble performed *Como Quien Pierde Una Estrella* with Soloist Jose Fraire in April. Jose is also a member of the MDN Baseball program.



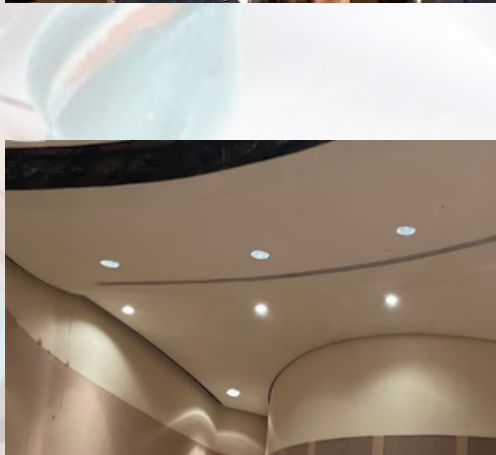
# STUDENT NEWS

## JROTC Awards Ceremony

C/LTC, Kelliagh Joos is the Battalion Commander of troops and she is on stage at the start of the ceremony on April 22nd.

C/1SG0, Jacob Yang is a Cadet on stage being presented the Special Forces Award. This award is given to one cadet for keeping with the traditions and ideals of the United States Army Special Forces.

Thank you JROTC for your commitment to supporting our students' path to service.



# STUDENT NEWS

## ATHLETICS - Boys Varsity Soccer

### 2022 AIA 4A Conference Sportsmanship Award

Congratulations to the **Boys Varsity Soccer Team**, as they were selected as this year's recipient of the 2022 AIA 4A Conference Sportsmanship Award. This award is handed out annually in each conference to the team that exhibits the highest level of sportsmanship as voted on by AIA officials.

The team was formally recognized during halftime of the 6A Boys Soccer State Championship game on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at Campo Verde High School. They were also honored by Dr. Kevin J. Mendivil, Superintendent at a Governing Board Meeting in March.

We are extremely proud of our student athletes for representing Marcos de Niza and the entire district with pride and respect. Coach **Bobby Davis** and assistant coaches **Ian Parkinson, Shayne Tuchfarber, Eli Allen, Abe Andrade, and Collin Lamb** demonstrated the epitome of sportsmanship on and off the field. Their influence will stay with these young men for the rest of their lives.



Congratulations, to **Uriel Perez Quezada** on being selected to this year's All-City Boys Soccer team in April. Thank you to the Tempe All-City Association for taking the time to celebrate these incredible student-athletes.





# STUDENT NEWS

## Athletics - Baseball

Great day at the Ballpark on a Sunday in April as the Marcos De Niza Baseball was honored for the D-backs Give Back grant that is presented to high school baseball and softball teams.

Thank you Arizona Diamondbacks for your hospitality.



### *Tempe All-City Spring Sports Awards Banquet*

Congratulations to Rosalino Valenzuela, Noah Heyn, and JP McIntyre on being selected to this year's Tempe All-City Baseball team.



# STUDENT NEWS

## 41st Annual Scholar Athlete Awards Banquet

Congratulations, **Nate Sanchez**, on being named to the Fiesta Bowl Elite Academic Team through the National Football Foundation Valley of the Sun Chapter. Nate was formally recognized on Saturday, April 23rd. We are extremely proud of Nate's accomplishments both on and off the football field. Congratulations, Nate!



## 2022 AIA Student Leadership Summit

Thank you to the Padres pictured below for representing Marcos de Niza at the 2022 AIA Student Leadership Summit. Way to go, Padres!

## Athletics - Track and Field

Well that's a wrap, the night on May 14th ended with **Jamaal Young II**, finishing 2nd in the 200m Dash with a new PR time of 22.19. A well deserved medal after a long season of grit and grinding.



The medals continued on May 14th for our Boys 4x100m Relay Team. A comeback victory from 3rd and finishing 2nd overall against a very tough D3 field. These boys saved their best for last finally breaking 43 with a PR time of 42.69.



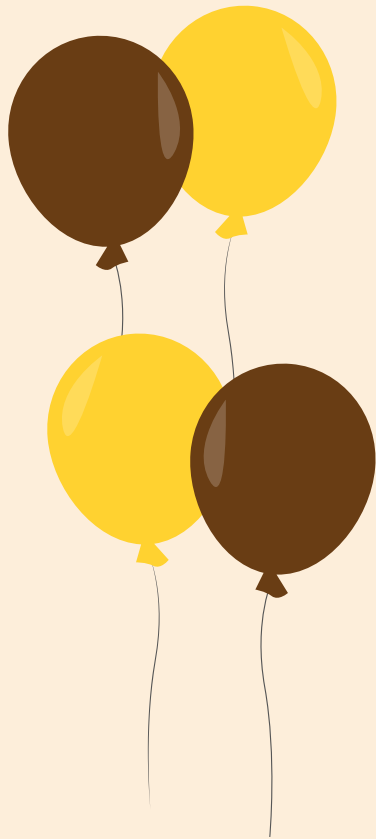


# Marcos de Niza High School

**Congratulations, Class of 2022  
Marcos de Niza Graduates!**

We are so proud of you. We will miss you. Stay strong, Padres.

The Victor C. Sanchez, Jr. Stadium was illuminated by fireworks on Thursday, May 19th to honor the Class of 2022.



**Follow Marcos De Niza on Social Media!**

